
California Board of Registered Nursing

2007-2008 Annual School Report

Data Summary and Historical Trend Analysis

A Presentation of Pre-Licensure Nursing Education Programs in California

Southern Border

March 23, 2009

Prepared by:
Renaë Waneka, MPH
Joanne Spetz, PhD
Center for the Health Professions
University of California, San Francisco
3333 California Street, Suite 410
San Francisco, CA 94118



INTRODUCTION

Each year, the California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) requires all pre-licensure registered nursing programs in California to complete a survey detailing statistics of their programs, students and faculty. The survey collects data from August 1 through July 31. Information gathered from these surveys is compiled into a database and used to analyze trends in nursing education.

The BRN commissioned the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) to conduct a historical analysis of data collected from the 2000-2001 survey through the 2007-2008 survey. In this report, we present eight years of historical data from the BRN Annual School Survey. Data analyses were conducted statewide and for nine economic regions¹ in California, with a separate report for each region. All reports are available on the BRN website (<http://www.rn.ca.gov/>).

This report presents data from the two-county Southern Border region. Counties in the region include Imperial and San Diego. All data are presented in aggregate form and describe overall trends in the areas and over the times specified and, therefore, may not be applicable to individual nursing education programs. Additional data from the past eight years of the BRN Annual School Survey are available in an interactive database on the BRN website.

¹ The nine regions include: (1) Northern California, (2) Northern Sacramento Valley, (3) Greater Sacramento, (4) Bay Area, (5) San Joaquin Valley, (7) Central Coast, (8) Southern California I (Los Angeles and Ventura counties), (9) Southern California II (Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties), and (10) Southern Border Region. Counties within each region are detailed in the corresponding regional report. The Central Sierra (Region 6) does not have any nursing education programs and was, therefore, not included in the analyses.

DATA SUMMARY AND HISTORICAL TREND ANALYSES

This analysis presents pre-licensure program data from the 2007-2008 BRN Annual School Survey in comparison with data from previous years of the survey. Data items addressed include the number of nursing programs, enrollments, completions, retention rates and student and faculty census data.

Trends in Pre-Licensure Nursing Programs

Number of Nursing Programs

There are 13 nursing programs in the Southern Border Region that lead to RN licensure. Of these programs, eight are ADN programs, four are BSN programs, and one is an ELM program. The majority (61.5%) of pre-licensure nursing programs in the Southern Border Region are public.

Number of Nursing Programs

	<i>Academic Year</i>							
	<i>2000-2001</i>	<i>2001-2002</i>	<i>2002-2003</i>	<i>2003-2004</i>	<i>2004-2005</i>	<i>2005-2006</i>	<i>2006-2007</i>	<i>2007-2008</i>
Total # Nursing Programs	8	9	9	9	12	12	13	13
<i>ADN Programs</i>	6	6	6	6	7	7	8	8
<i>BSN Programs</i>	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	4
<i>ELM Programs</i>		1	1	1	1	1	1	1
<i>Public Programs</i>	6	6	6	6	7	7	8	8
<i>Private Programs</i>	2	3	3	3	5	5	5	5

Admission Spaces and New Student Enrollments

Over the past eight years, admission spaces available for new student enrollments increased by 83.5% (n=535), from 641 spaces in 2000-2001 to 1,176 in 2007-2008. These spaces were filled with a total of 1,241 students, increasing new student enrollment by 97.9% (n=614) from 2000-2001.

Although programs in the region grew dramatically over the eight-year period, the past year shows a plateau in the growth of admission spaces and new student enrollments.

Availability and Utilization of Admission Spaces

	<i>Academic Year</i>							
	<i>2000-2001</i>	<i>2001-2002</i>	<i>2002-2003</i>	<i>2003-2004</i>	<i>2004-2005</i>	<i>2005-2006</i>	<i>2006-2007</i>	<i>2007-2008</i>
Spaces Available	641	419	679	707	1,047	1,065	1,173	1,176
New Student Enrollments	627	390	665	709	969	1,000	1,211	1,241
% Spaces Filled	97.8%	93.1%	97.9%	100.3%	92.6%	93.9%	103.2%	105.5%

Qualified applications to Southern Border nursing programs have decreased for the past two years. Despite the decrease in qualified applications, nursing programs still receive more applications requesting entrance into their programs than can be accommodated. The share of qualified applications that were not accepted for admission dropped from 65.1% (n=1,862) in 2005-2006 to 47.8% (n=1,137) in 2007-2008.

Applications Accepted and Not Accepted for Admission

	<i>Academic Year</i>							
	<i>2000-2001</i>	<i>2001-2002</i>	<i>2002-2003</i>	<i>2003-2004</i>	<i>2004-2005</i>	<i>2005-2006</i>	<i>2006-2007</i>	<i>2007-2008</i>
Qualified Applications	869	688	1,177	1,675	1,729	2,862	2,637	2,378
<i>Accepted</i>	627	390	665	709	969	1,000	1,211	1,241
<i>Not Accepted</i>	242	298	512	966	760	1,862	1,426	1,137
% Qualified Applications <i>Not Accepted</i>	27.8%	43.3%	43.5%	57.7%	44.0%	65.1%	54.1%	47.8%

**Since these data represent applications rather than individuals, an increase in qualified applications may not represent equal growth in the number of individuals applying to nursing school.

The Southern Border region has seen new student enrollments in its nursing programs increase by 97.9% (n=614) since 2001-2002. Over the last year, enrollments in all program types increased by 2.5% (n=30). BSN, ELM and public programs contributed to this increase in enrollment. Despite the enrollment increases in these programs, more than half (52.2%) of nursing students in the Southern Border region continue to be educated in ADN programs.

New Student Enrollment by Program Type

	<i>Academic Year</i>							
	<i>2000-2001</i>	<i>2001-2002</i>	<i>2002-2003</i>	<i>2003-2004</i>	<i>2004-2005</i>	<i>2005-2006</i>	<i>2006-2007</i>	<i>2007-2008</i>
New Student Enrollment	627	390	665	709	969	1,000	1,211	1,241
<i>ADN</i>	402	296	406	441	619	561	653	648
<i>BSN</i>	225	94	229	228	311	400	521	550
<i>ELM</i>		0	30	40	39	39	37	43
<i>Private</i>	172	107	162	169	364	417	451	448
<i>Public</i>	455	283	503	540	605	583	760	793

Student Completions

The number of students who completed a nursing program in the Southern Border region increased by 68.1% (n=350), from 514 in 2000-2001 to 864 in 2007-2008. Of the 864 students that completed a nursing program in Southern Border region in 2007-2008, 66.7% (n=576) of them completed an ADN program and 33.3% (n=288) completed a BSN program.

Student Completions

	Academic Year							
	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
Student Completions	514	537	523	622	693	739	788	864
ADN	381	378	341	415	438	493	503	576
BSN	133	159	157	178	216	207	250	288
ELM		0	25	29	39	39	35	0

Retention Rate

Of the 839 students scheduled to complete a nursing program in the 2007-2008 academic year, 78.5% (n=659) completed the program on-time, 6.3% (n=53) are still enrolled in the program, and 15.1% (n=127) dropped out or were disqualified from the program. The retention rate increased from 55.5% (n=537) in 2002-2003 to 78.5% (n=659) in 2007-2008.

Student Cohort Completion and Retention Data

	Academic Year							
	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008
Enrollment	1,061	327	967	742	782	832	820	839
Completed On Time	849	269	537	567	620	689	649	659
Still Enrolled	86	8	344	109	78	35	64	53
Attrition	126	50	86	66	84	108	107	127
Retention Rate*	80.0%	82.3%	55.5%	76.4%	79.3%	82.8%	79.1%	78.5%
Attrition Rate	11.9%	15.3%	8.9%	8.9%	10.7%	13.0%	13.0%	15.1%
% Still Enrolled	8.1%	2.4%	35.6%	14.7%	10.0%	4.2%	7.9%	6.4%

*Retention rate = (students who completed the program on-time) / (enrollment)

There has been fluctuation in the retention and attrition rates over the seven-year period documented in the above table. There were changes to the survey between 2003-2004 and 2004-2005, and between 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 that may have affected the comparability of these data over time.

Student Census Data

The total number of students enrolled in nursing programs in the Southern Border region more than doubled, from 1,090 on October 15, 2001, to 2,355 on October 15, 2008.

The reported number of pre-nursing students increased from 223 in 2007 to 1,535 in 2008. This increase may be due to a greater number of programs reporting data than to an actual increase in the number of pre-nursing students.

Student Census Data

Program Track	Academic Year							
	<i>2000-2001</i>	<i>2001-2002</i>	<i>2002-2003</i>	<i>2003-2004</i>	<i>2004-2005</i>	<i>2005-2006</i>	<i>2006-2007</i>	<i>2007-2008</i>
ADN Program	579	596	598	648	964	1,067	1,104	1,208
BSN Program	511	576	577	629	732	887	1,052	1,062
ELM Program		0	30	39	39	39	43	85
Total Nursing Students	1,090	1,172	1,205	1,316	1,735	1,993	2,199	2,355
Pre-Nursing Students					2,566	1,075	223	1,535

*Blank cells indicated that the applicable information was not requested in the given year.

Clinical Simulation in Nursing Education

Data show that 66.7% (n=8) of the twelve nursing schools in the Southern Border region used a clinical simulation center² between 8/1/07 and 7/31/08. The majority of schools that use clinical simulation centers reported that they use these facilities to standardize clinical experiences and to check clinical competencies. Data gathered also show that 87.5% (n=7) of the eight nursing schools that currently use a clinical simulation center have plans to expand it.

Reasons for Using a Clinical Simulation Center*	2007-2008
To standardize clinical experiences	87.5%
To provide clinical experience not available in a clinical setting	62.5%
To check clinical competencies	87.5%
To make up for clinical experiences	62.5%
To increase capacity in your nursing program	37.5%
Number of schools that use a clinical simulation center	8

*These data were collected for the first time in 2006-2007. However, changes in these questions for the 2007-2008 administration of the survey and lack of confidence in the reliability of the 2006-2007 data prevent comparability of the data. Therefore, data from previous years of the survey are not shown.

² Clinical Simulation Center/Experience - students have a simulated real-time nursing care experience using hi-fidelity mannequins and clinical scenarios, which allow them to integrate, apply, and refine specific skills and abilities that are based on theoretical concepts and scientific knowledge. The experience includes videotaping, de-briefing and dialogue as part of the learning process.

Faculty Census Data

The total number of nursing faculty in the Southern Border region increased by 15.2% (n=53) over the last year. On October 15, 2008, there were 402 total nursing faculty. Of these faculty, 33.3% (n=134) were full-time and 66.7% (n=268) were part-time.

Although there was an increase in the total number of nursing faculty in 2008, that increase has not kept pace with the need for faculty. On October 15, 2008, there were 14 vacant faculty positions in the Southern Border region. These vacancies represent a 3.4% faculty vacancy rate.

Faculty Data

	<i>Academic Year</i>							
	<i>2000-2001</i>	<i>2001-2002</i>	<i>2002-2003</i>	<i>2003-2004</i>	<i>2004-2005*</i>	<i>2005-2006</i>	<i>2006-2007</i>	<i>2007-2008</i>
Total Faculty	164	174	195	201	283	292	349	402
<i>Full-time</i>	87	90	95	93	104	95	124	134
<i>Part-time</i>	77	84	100	108	150	195	225	268
Vacancy Rate**		2.2%	10.6%	5.2%	5.7%	4.6%	5.7%	3.4%
<i>Vacancies</i>		4	23	11	17	14	21	14

In 2004-2005, 2005-2006 and 2006-2007, the sum of full- and part-time faculty did not equal the total faculty reported.

*Faculty vacancies were estimated based on the vacant FTEs reported.

**Vacancy rate = number of vacancies/(total faculty + number of vacancies)

Summary

In the past eight years, the number of admission spaces available in pre-licensure nursing education programs in the Southern Border region increased by 83.5% (n=535). New student enrollments in these programs increased by 97.9% (n=614) during the same time period. Even though these programs continue to receive more qualified applications than can be accommodated, qualified applications to these programs have decreased in recent years.

Nursing program expansions have led to a growing number of RN graduates in the region. Between 2000-2001 and 2007-2008, graduations increased 68.1% (n=350) in the Southern Border region. Graduations will continue to rise as larger cohorts of students complete RN programs. Nursing program retention rates have remained around 79% for the past two years.

Expansion in nursing education has required nursing programs to hire more faculty. Although the number of nursing faculty has more than doubled (n=238) since 2000-2001, faculty hires have not kept pace with the growth in pre-licensure nursing programs in the region. In 2007-2008, Southern Border RN programs reported 14 faculty vacancies, representing a 3.4% faculty vacancy rate. Without more faculty, RN programs will not be able to continue their expansion.

APPENDIX A – Southern Border Nursing Education Programs

ADN Programs

Grossmont College
Imperial Valley College
Maric College
Mira Costa College
National University
Palomar College
San Diego City College
Southwestern Community College

BSN Programs

CSU San Marcos
National University
Point Loma Nazarene College
San Diego State University

ELM Programs

University of San Diego

APPENDIX B – BRN Education Advisory Committee Members**BRN Education Advisory Committee Members****Members**

Sherry Fox, Chair
Barbara Whitney
Deloras Jones
Jim Comins
Loucine Huckabay
Margaret Craig
Marilyn Herrmann
Stephanie Leach
Sue Albert

Organization

California State University, Chico
California Community College Chancellor's Office
California Institute of Nursing and Health Care
California Community College Chancellor's Office
California State University, Long Beach
Napa Valley College
Loma Linda University
California Labor and Workforce Development Agency
College of the Canyons

Ex-Officio Members

Ruth Ann Terry
Louise Bailey

California Board of Registered Nursing
California Board of Registered Nursing

Project Managers

Carol Mackay
Julie Campbell-Warnock

California Board of Registered Nursing
California Board of Registered Nursing